GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4062
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Issues at WTO Meet
Mani Shri Jose K.;Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether india is poised to push many topics in the world trade organisation (wto) ministerial conference at argentina this year including a permanent solution to the issue of public stockholding of foodgrains and discussions on tfa on services aimed to ease movement of skilled professionals across the borders;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the diplomats from developed nations who have opposed the indian move have said that the negotiations on the lines proposed by india are likely to be hampered by another proposal tabled by china and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the government has sent or proposes to send an expert to the wto headquarters to ensure that negotiations on food security issues and the proposed global services pact are expedited and if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. In various meetings related to matters being discussed in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India has suggested possible outcomes for the Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) of the WTO to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 11 to 14 December 2017. These include implementation of Ministerial Decisions taken at previous Ministerial Conferences of the WTO such as the Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes. India has also proposed an agreement for facilitating trade in services for which a draft legal text was tabled in the WTO on 22 February 2017, after initial discussions on the concept and elements in October and November 2016. The objective of the initiative proposed by India is to initiate discussion in the WTO on how to comprehensively address the numerous barriers that impede the realization of the full potential of trade in services.

(c): No Madam. The proposals are being discussed in the relevant committees of the WTO.

(d): An Indian delegation was deputed to Geneva from 14 to 17 March 2017 to discuss issues of interest to India with various members of the WTO and with the Director General of the WTO.

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